

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 146328

45

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 MC-02 TRSE-00

SS-20 NSC-07 NSCE-00 L-03 SCS-03 SY-04 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:GDSTRONG:AIC

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN

EB/OA/EVP:CDUDLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES ACQUISITION DECISION

REF: BEIRUT 7720

1. JOHN R. ALLEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF EASTERN DIVISION OF MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT ON JULY 8 THAT MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS REPRESENTATIVE, ROBERT FOX, AN AMCIT, WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY QUOTE SECURITY POLICE UNQUOTE IN DAMASCUS LATE LAST WEEK AND ASKED TO DEPART DAMASCUS IMMEDIATELY. HE WAS GIVEN NO REASON FOR HIS EXPULSION BUT WAS INFORMED WHILE IN CUSTODY THAT MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED FROM COMPETITION FOR CONTRACT TO SELL PLANES TO SYRIAN AIRLINES. FOX IS PRESENTLY IN BEIRUT.

2. ALLEN EXPRESSED CONCERN AND ASKED IF EMBASSY DAMASCUS COULD MAKE INQUIRIES ABOUT FOX'S ARREST.

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PAGE 02 STATE 146328

3. MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS HAD PLANNED TO SEND PRESIDENT OF

CORPORATION TO DAMASCUS AND DEMONSTRATION AIRCRAFT TO
DAMASCUS BUT IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING HAS THESE PLANS IN SUS-
PENSE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CLARIFYING WITH SYRIANS QUESTION
OF MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS STATUS IN WIDE-BODIED COMPETITION AND
PROVIDING ANY INFORMATION ON REASONS FOR FOX'S EXPULSION. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, PERSONNEL, DETENTION, EXPULSION, AIRCRAFT SALES, NEGOTIATIONS, ARRESTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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